

206202US3DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :

Hironori FUJIOKA, et al. : EXAMINER:

SERIAL NO: New Application :

FILED: Herewith : GROUP ART UNIT:

FOR: METHOD OF PRODUCING REDUCED IRON
AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line, please insert the following sentence:

--This application is a Division of application Serial No. 09/386,291, filed on August 31, 1999.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-3 and 14-22 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-13 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-3 and 14-22 having been canceled by way of this Preliminary Amendment.

Examination on the merits of Claims 4-13 and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703) 413-2220
GJM/RTP/AY:si
I:\atty\Aky\0027\206202DIV\206202.div-preame.wpd

Marked-Up Copy

Serial No: New Application

Amendment Filed on:

May 4, 2001

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line, please insert the following sentence:

--This application is a Division of application Serial No. 09/386,291, filed on August

31, 1999.--